



# DAK BUNTS DARK KNIGHTS MIDWINTER



SNYDER + CAPULLO + CLAPTON + PLASCENCIA

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## JUSTICE LEAGUE



**AN ALL-NEW TEAM FOR  
AN ALL-NEW ERA!**

Written by **JOSHUA WILLIAMSON**

Art by **ROBSON ROCHA**

Includes a *JUSTICE LEAGUE DARK* bonus story

**48 PAGES**



**JOHN STEWART  
MUST LEAD THE  
POWERLESS  
LANTERNS HOME!**

Written by  
**GEOFFREY THORNE**

Art by  
**TOM RANEY**

Includes a *TALES OF THE GREEN  
LANTERN CORPS* bonus story

**48 PAGES**

**AN INTERGALACTIC  
ADVENTURE  
BEYOND THE  
SEVEN SEAS!**

Written by  
**BRANDON THOMAS**

Art by  
**DANIEL SAMPERE**



**DISCOVER THE DESTINY OF THE  
DC UNIVERSE!**

**JANUARY + FEBRUARY**





I'VE HEARD A LOT OF PRAYERS ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

SOMETIMES THEY'RE WHISPERED. SOMETIMES THEY'RE SCREAMED AT THE SKY.



THEY USUALLY COME BEFORE THE WORST OF IT.

I'VE HEARD PRAYERS FOR VICTORY. FOR PROVIDENCE. PRAYERS FOR FORGIVENESS.

WHATEVER'S IN A SOLDIER'S HEART, WHATEVER LONGING, YOU HEAR IT SPOKEN THEN.

GOD, I WISH I STILL HAD MY HAIR.

LOOK AT YOU... FIEND.

EVERYONE GET READY! THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS' DARK ARMIES...THEY'RE AMASSING!



WHY ARE THEY JUST STANDING THERE?

THEY'RE TRYING TO INTIMIDATE US. SHOW US THEIR NUMBERS.

FINE...







...LET'S SHOW THEM OURS.



UH BATS, YOU DO SEE THERE ARE WAY MORE OF THEM, RIGHT?

SO FREAKING WHAT?! WE'VE GOT THE POWERS, THE HEART, WE'RE WAY HOTTER.

CLARK, THE ONE WHO LAUGHS DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TIME TO MAKE THESE WORLDS BEFORE WE DESTABILIZED THE EARTH AND CUT OFF HIS POWER TO CREATE.

I WAS THINKING THE SAME THING. MANY OF THOSE EARTHS COULD BE EMPTY. THIS MIGHT BE HIS WHOLE ARMY.



THEN WE LEAVE EVERYTHING ON THE FIELD.



USE EVERY TRICK IN OUR BELTS AND UP OUR SLEEVES UNTIL THERE'S NOTHING LEFT.



THEY'RE GETTING READY TO ATTACK. LOOK!

YOU WANNA SAY IT, KID?

ALL RIGHT EVERYONE...



#\$%\* CHARGE!

LANGUAGE, KIDDO, LANGUAGE!



ONE KIND OF PRAYER  
YER UNCLE ROCK HEARS  
A LOT IS THE PLEA FOR  
GUIDANCE.

FOR WISDOM  
OR DIRECTION.

SHOW ME WHAT TO  
DO OUT THERE, LORD.

GUIDE MY FEET.  
MY HANDS...

# DEATH METAL

## AN ANTI-CRISIS PART VI THE TRUTH MACHINE

BY SCOTT "SLASHER" SNYDER & GREG "CRUSHER" CAPULLO



WITH

INKS - JONATHAN "DEATH PUNCH" GLAPION

COLORS - FCO "PLUNDERER" PLASCENCIA

LETTERS - TOM "KNOCKOUT" NAPOLITANO

COVER BY GREG CAPULLO, JONATHAN GLAPION & FCO PLASCENCIA

SWAMP THING VARIANT COVER BY DAVID "FLASHBANG" FINCH

& STEVE "FIREBALL" FIRCHOW

B. REX VARIANT COVER BY LUCIO "LEGENDARY" PARRILLO

MISTER MIRACLE VARIANT COVER BY STANLEY "ARTGERM, A.K.A. LOW BLOW" LAU

1:25 VARIANT COVER BY DOUG "MARAUDER" MAHNKE

& DAVID "WASTELAND" BARON

1:100 VARIANT COVER BY GREG CAPULLO & JONATHAN GLAPION

CARTOGRAPHER - JARED "BLOODY" BLANDO

PUBLICATION DESIGN - DARRAN "IRREDEEMABLE" ROBINSON

EDITORS - MARIE "THE MALEVOLENT" JAVINS & ANDREW "AX-MAN" MARINO

SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER  
BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY



...GUIDE MY  
HEART LEST I  
LOSE MY WAY.

# THE PASSAGE TO THE FORGE OF WORLDS.

THE **FORGE**  
SHOULD BE JUST  
AHEAD!

I DON'T  
GET IT. THIS  
PLACE IS MADE OF  
**DARK MATTER**,  
AIN'T IT?

SO WHERE  
ARE ALL THE  
WORLD'S HOPES  
AND FEARS AND  
FRAGGIN' MUSHY  
STUFF?

I DON'T  
KNOW. MAYBE  
WITH THE UNIVERSE  
AT WAR, THERE'S LITTLE  
ROOM FOR ANYTHING  
BEYOND THE  
FIGHT.

DAMN,  
IN A WAY,  
THAT'S EVEN  
SPOOKIER.

IF THERE *IS* ONE  
FEAR DOWN HERE...  
SOMETHING EVERYONE  
IS AFRAID OF RIGHT  
NOW, I'D IMAGINE  
IT'S--

HOLD IT.  
DID YOU HEAR  
SOMETHIN'?





LOOK  
OUT!



WHAT  
THE FRAG  
IS--

BASTICHES  
EVERYWHERE!

WHAT  
THE HELL ARE  
THEY?!



IT'S...  
IT'S **HIM!**  
THE **BATMAN**  
WHO **LAUGHS!**  
THE FEAR OF  
HIM TAKING  
FORM...



"...HE'S THE  
LAST TERROR IN  
EXISTENCE!"

YOU'RE GETTING  
TIRED, MY QUEEN,  
I CAN SENSE IT.  
ALL THE REMAINING  
**CRISIS ENERGY**  
WAS REDIRECTED  
TO ME.



MAYBE SO...BUT  
YOUR STRENGTH IS  
*LIMITED* AS WELL.  
PERHAPS WE CAN  
REACH SOME KIND  
OF DEAL?

SURE. HOW  
ABOUT I KILL YOU...AND  
TAKE THE LAST OF YOUR  
POWER? SOUND GOOD?



INGRATE!







HISSESSS!

BOON



YOU WILL  
PAY FOR THAT,  
GODDESS.

DON'T  
YOU SEE? I...  
=HUFF HUFF=...I  
AM THE ONLY THING  
PROTECTING THIS  
MULTIVERSE FROM  
DETECTION BY  
MY KIND!



I DIE...  
AND THE HANDS  
WILL COME HERE, SEE  
WHAT'S BEEN DONE,  
AND THEY WILL  
END US ALL!



PROMISE?

ONCE IN A WHILE, I HEAR DARK  
PRAYERS--A SOLDIER RENOUNCING HIS  
OR HER GOD, CURSING THEM TO HELL.

PURE FURY.





BUT THOSE  
ARE RARE. FAR MORE  
OFTEN, I HEAR PRAYERS  
OF SELFLESSNESS.  
PRAYERS FOR OTHERS.

THE BEST  
KIND.

KEEP  
FIGHTING!  
WE CAN WIN  
THIS!

PRAYERS FOR THE  
DYING AND DEAD.



I'VE EVEN HEARD  
SOLDIERS PRAY FOR  
THEIR OWN ENEMIES.

YOU OKAY,  
SOLOMON?

KILL YOU  
ON MONDAY  
AND TUESDAY  
AND WED--



AND OF COURSE I'VE HEARD  
THEM PRAY FOR THEIR ALLIES.

WE'RE  
THINNING  
THEM OUT!

HE'S RIGHT!  
WE'RE MAKING  
HEADWAY!

WHEREVER  
YOU ARE,  
DIANA...





LOOK OUT!

YOU LOOK OUT... FOR THAT #\$\$\* BOOK!



THE JOURNAL!

YOU NEED TO GET IT TO THE FORGE!



LEX SAID... AGH!

HE SAID YOU GOTTA BUILD THE MACHINE IN THAT BOOK...



...CONNECT TO EVERYONE SO YOU CAN JUICE UP AND BEAT THAT LAUGHING BASTICH!



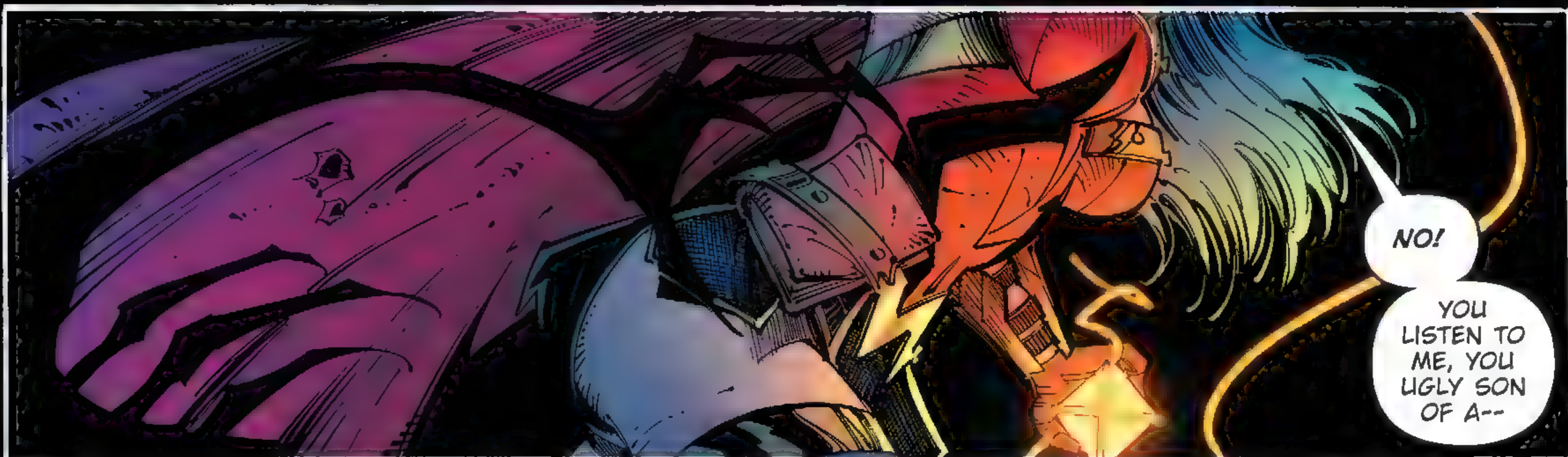
I'M NOT LEAVING YOU HERE TO DIE!





UNH! THE  
MAIN MAN KNEW  
THIS WAS A ONE-WAY  
RIDE, HOSS. LOOK, I'VE  
BEEN A BOUNTY HUNTER A  
LONG TIME. AND AIN'T  
NO BETTER **BOUNTY** TO  
GO OUT ON THAN YOU  
KICKING THAT GUY'S  
SKINNY ASS.

SO YOU  
JUST GET THE  
BOOK WHERE  
IT NEEDS TO  
BE. MAKE IT  
MATTER.



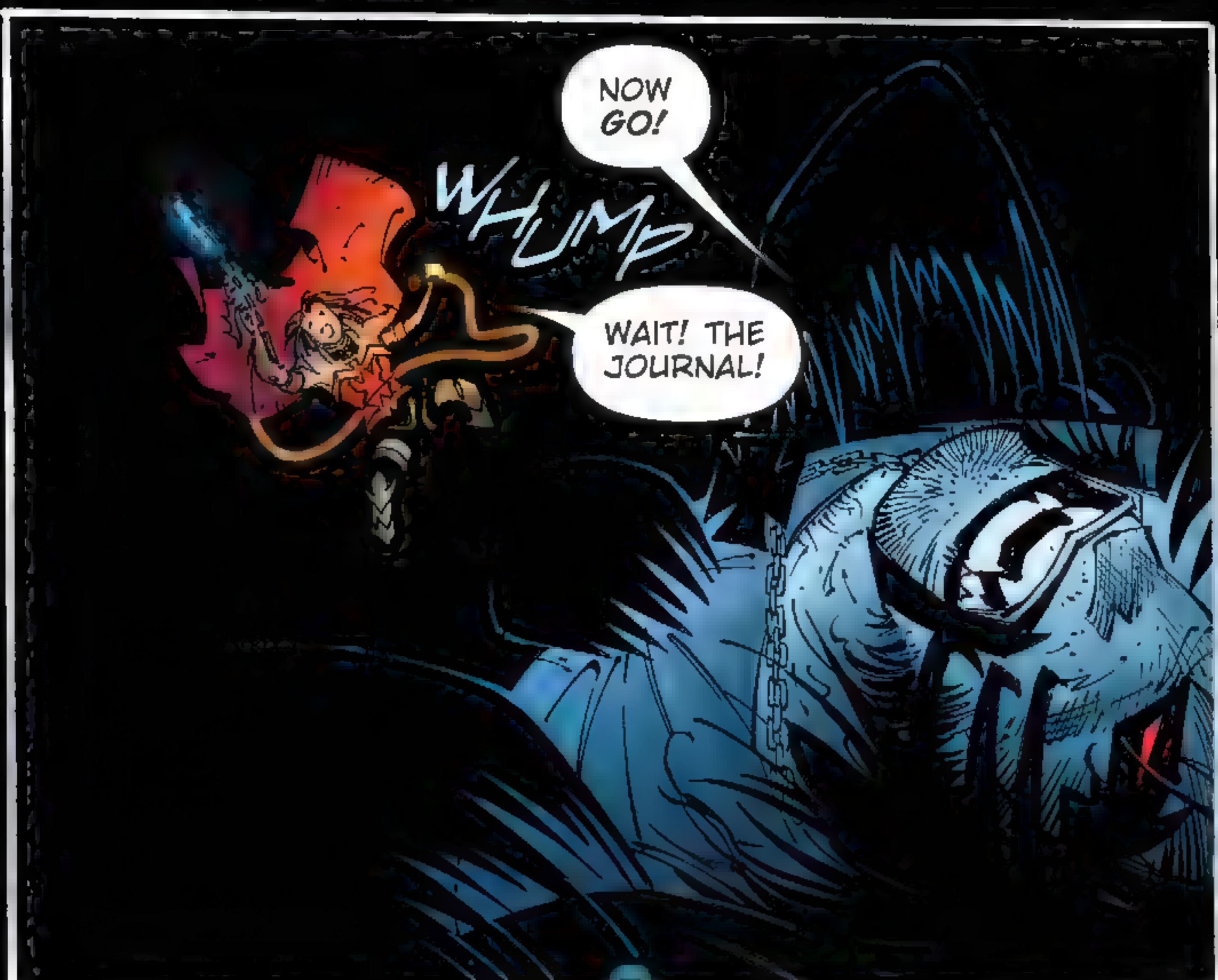
NO!

YOU  
LISTEN TO  
ME, YOU  
UGLY SON  
OF A--



HATA...

OURSSSS.



NOW  
GO!

WHUMP

WAIT! THE  
JOURNAL!



NONONO.

THE JOURNAL.

IT WOULD HAVE MADE LITTLE DIFFERENCE.

DARKSEID?

THE FORGE DIMS BY THE MOMENT. THE CREATIONS OF THE ONE WHO LAUGHS HAVE NO REAL SOULS. THEY HAVE NO HOPES, NO FEARS. THEY THINK ONLY OF WINNING. IN MOMENTS, WHEN YOUR FRIENDS DIE, THE FIRES WILL GO DARK.

WAAH!

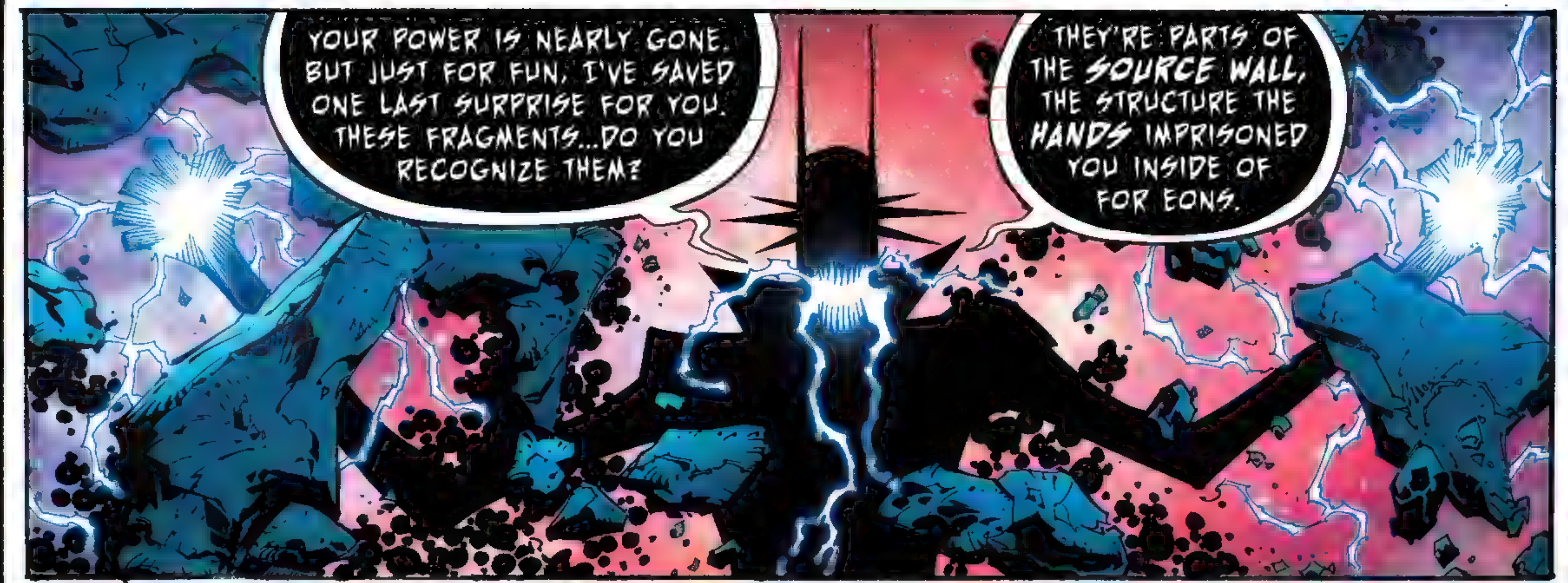
HUSH, MOBIUS, IT IS ALMOST OVER.

SOON IT WILL BE TIME FOR SLEEP.

NO... THERE HAS TO BE A WAY TO WIN!

"IT'S DONE, MY QUEEN..."





YOUR POWER IS NEARLY GONE, BUT JUST FOR FUN, I'VE SAVED ONE LAST SURPRISE FOR YOU. THESE FRAGMENTS...DO YOU RECOGNIZE THEM?

THEY'RE PARTS OF THE *SOURCE WALL*, THE STRUCTURE THE *HANDS* IMPRISONED YOU INSIDE OF FOR EONS.



NO! ALL I WANTED WAS TO EVOLVE YOUR KIND! TO MAKE YOU STRONG AND--  
MMPH!

I KNOW WHAT YOU WANTED. BUT ALL YOU GODS, YOU FAIL TO UNDERSTAND US AT OUR MOST FUNDAMENTAL LEVEL.

BEINGS LIKE YOU, YOU SEE HUMANITY, SEE OUR DARK INSTINCTS...AND YOU TRY TO *SAVE* US.

BUT THE MISTAKE *ALL* OF YOU MAKE IS THINKING THAT WE WANT TO BE SAVED, RATHER THAN *UNLEASHED*.

THE BIG SECRET, THE TRUTH, IS THAT IN THE END IT'S *YOU* GODS WHO WANT TO BE SAVED FROM *US*.

SO DIE KNOWING THIS: WE LOOK AT YOU, ALL YOU WHO BEG TO OUR BETTER ANGELS...



...AND WE  
LAUGH.



"SOMETHING'S  
HAPPENING!"



# ROCK'S PRAYER

"LOOK!  
WE'RE... WE'RE  
WINNING!"

"IT'S TRUE! THEY'RE  
RETREATING!"

WOO-HOO!  
YAY!





LOOK AT THEM ALL RUNNING!  
HA!

ALSO, NICE HAT, HON.

SHE'S RIGHT! WE'VE BEATEN THEM BACK FOR NOW!

WOO-HOO!

YAY!

RIGHT?



HA! THAT'S RIGHT, YOU BETTER RUN!

THIS PLACE MIGHT BE A DUMP BUT IT'S OUR DUMP!

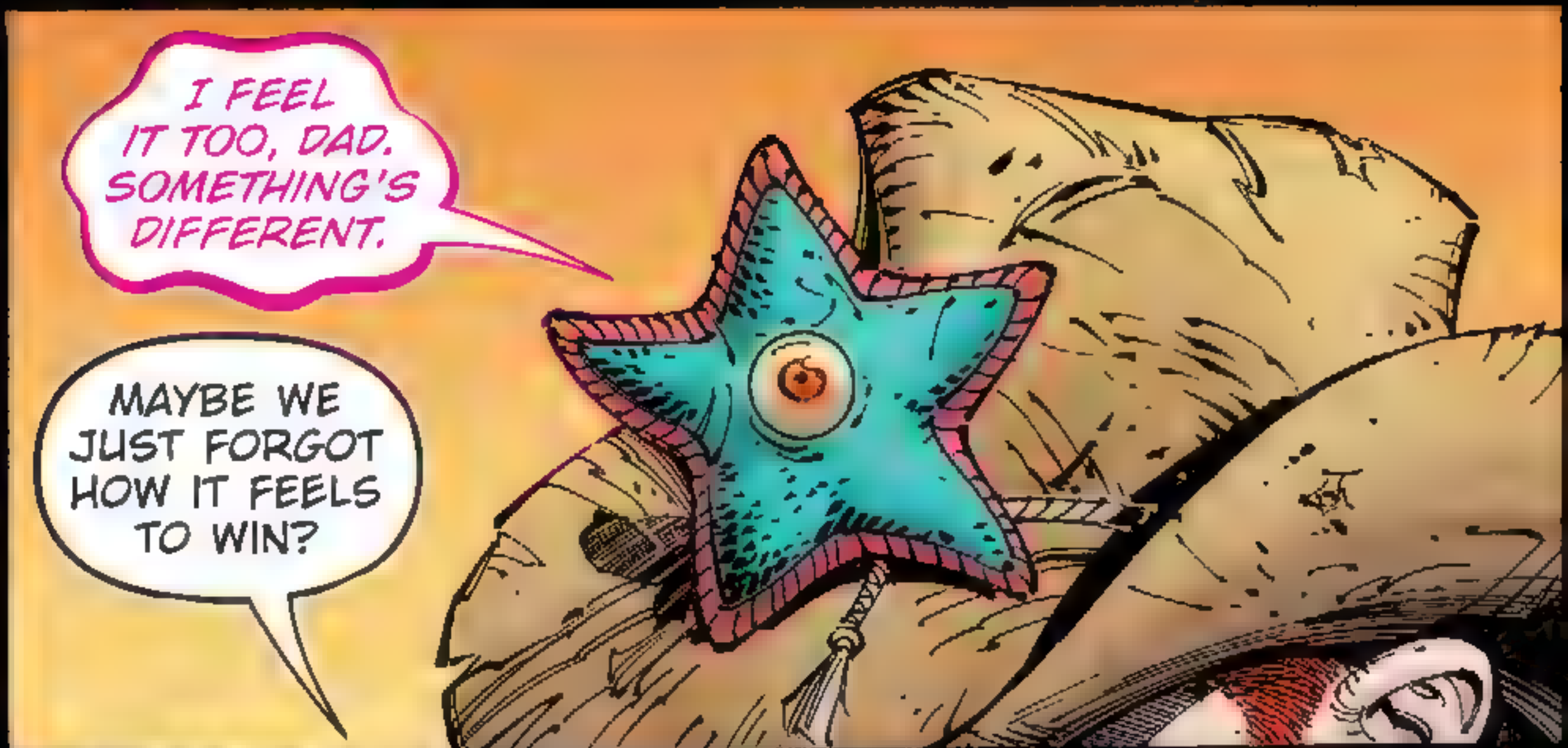


BRUCE, YOU ALL RIGHT?

SOMETHING DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT.

YOU ARE MISSING YOUR ARM.

IT'S NOT THAT.

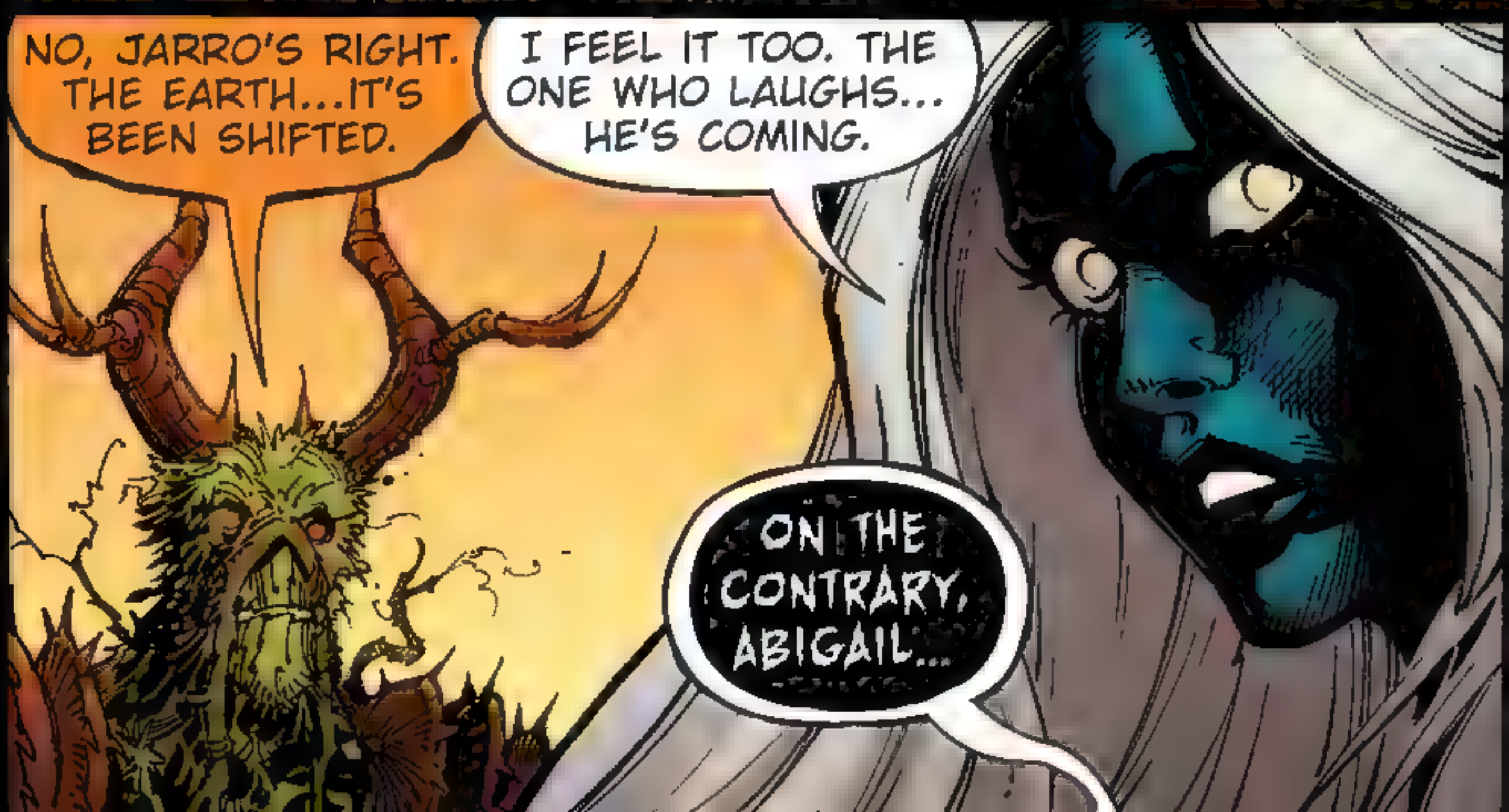


I FEEL IT TOO, DAD. SOMETHING'S DIFFERENT.

MAYBE WE JUST FORGOT HOW IT FEELS TO WIN?



I MEAN ~~UNH!~~...IT HAS BEEN A WHILE.



NO, JARRO'S RIGHT. THE EARTH...IT'S BEEN SHIFTED.

I FEEL IT TOO. THE ONE WHO LAUGHS... HE'S COMING.

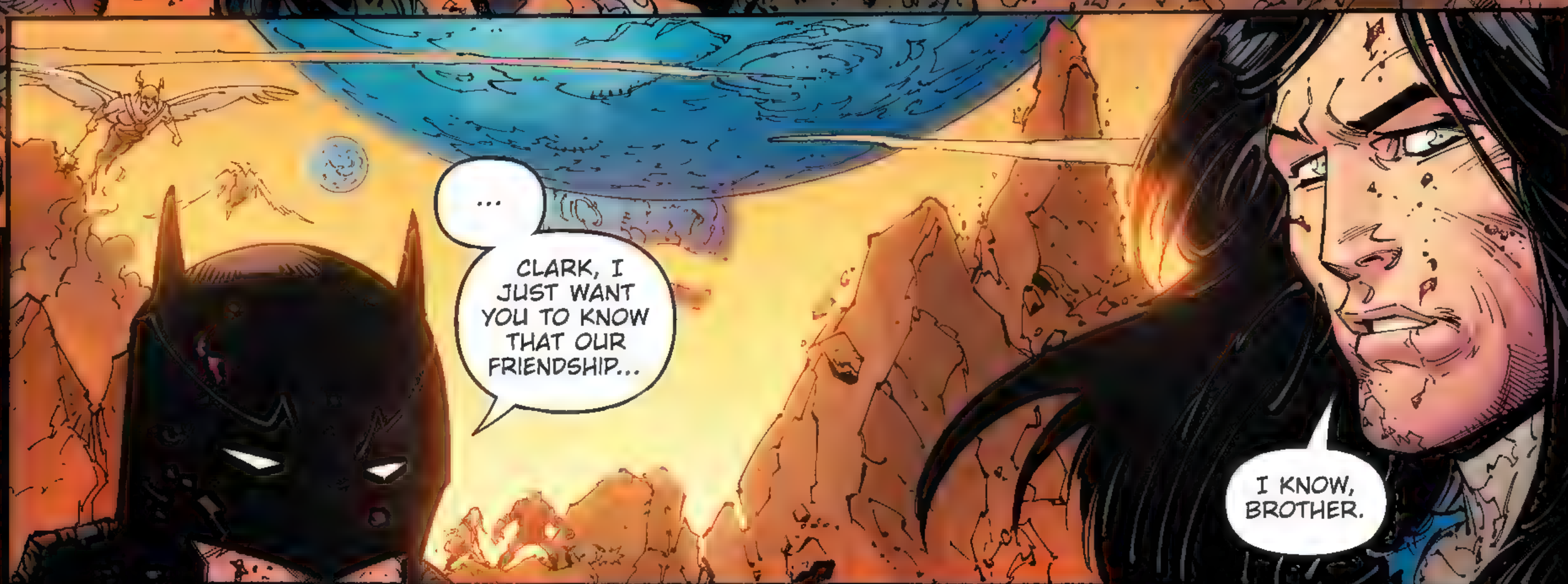
ON THE CONTRARY, ABIGAIL...



...I'M  
ALREADY  
HERE.

AND IN THE  
TIME IT TOOK YOU  
TO CHEER, I REALIGNED  
THE EARTH, FINISHED  
CREATING ALL MY  
PLANETS, ALL MY  
ARMIES.

HERE ARE MY  
FAVORITE SOLDIERS  
THOUGH, THE ONES I'VE  
BEEN SAVING FOR YOUR  
LAST MOMENTS. SO SAY  
HELLO TO YOUR DARKEST  
**NIGHTMARES**, BEFORE  
THEY KILL YOU.



...  
CLARK, I  
JUST WANT  
YOU TO KNOW  
THAT OUR  
FRIENDSHIP...

I KNOW,  
BROTHER.



EVERYONE.  
THIS IS IT. GATHER  
WITH YOUR **FAMILIES**.  
FIGHT ALONGSIDE  
THEM. WE GO OUT  
TOGETHER.

"THIS CAN'T BE IT. I  
WON'T LET IT BE!"



ALL MATTER  
COMES FROM THE  
FORGE, ITS METAL  
IS CONNECTED  
TO US.

IF I'D BUILT  
THE MACHINE LUTHOR  
DESIGNED, THE MACHINE  
TO MAKE EVERYONE  
REMEMBER ALL HISTORY,  
I COULD HAVE UNITED  
US ALL AND DRAWN  
ANTI-CRISIS ENERGY  
INTO MYSELF.

I'D HAVE A  
CHANCE OF FIGHTING  
THE ONE WHO LAUGHS.  
BUT I DIDN'T LOOK AT  
THE DESIGN. I...I  
DON'T KNOW WHAT  
TO BUILD.

COME NOW,  
DIANA. HUMANKIND  
DOES NOT WANT THE  
TRUTH. THAT IT IS TINY,  
THAT ONE LIFE MATTERS  
NOT AT ALL IN THE  
SCOPE OF THINGS? **ALL**  
**EVIL** SPRINGS  
FROM IT.

NO. NO,  
YOU'RE  
WRONG.

IT'S ONLY WHEN WE **FEAR**  
THE TRUTH THAT EVIL RISES.  
TO **KNOW** THAT ALL HISTORY AND  
EVERY HUMAN LIFE IS PART OF  
ONE STORY...IS TO KNOW THAT WE  
**ALL** MATTER. THAT EVERYTHING  
WE DO MATTERS. THAT **TRUTH**  
CONNECTS US, BECAUSE IT IS  
LOVE, AND IT **BINDS**  
US TOGETHER...

"BINDS"?

GREAT  
HERA.

"A MACHINE  
THAT FORCES  
US TO SEE THE  
TRUTH."

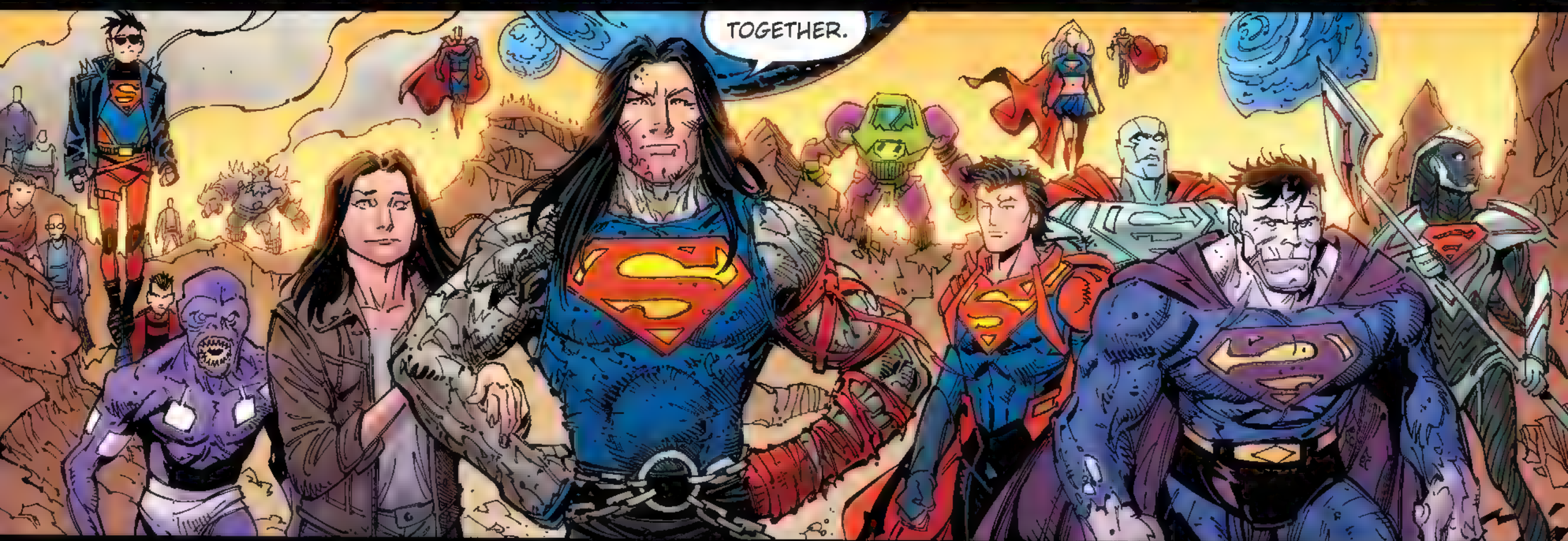
I KNOW  
WHAT TO  
DO.

"ALL RIGHT,  
EVERYONE.  
THIS IS IT.

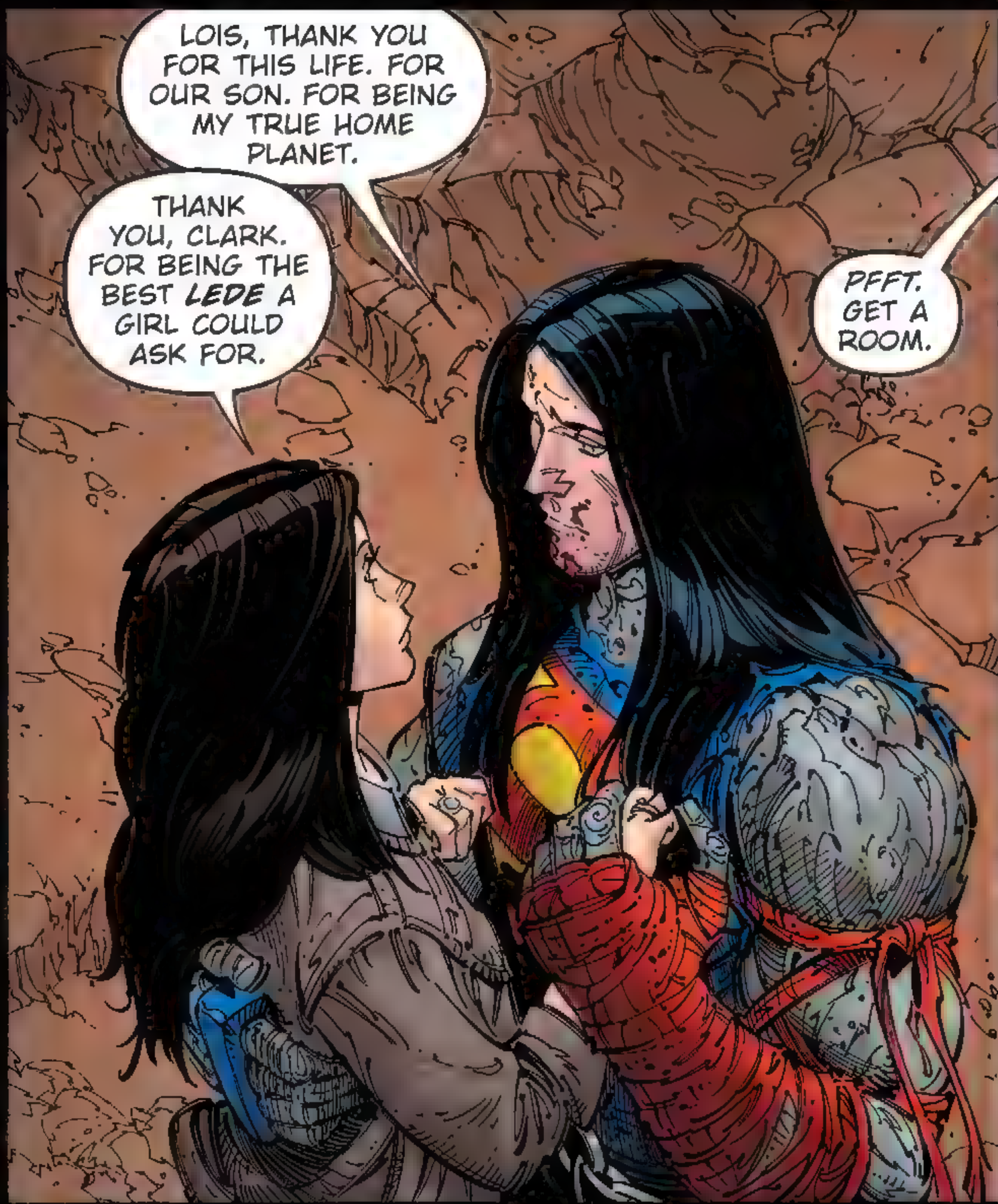
"WE FIGHT AS  
ONE ARMY.

"ONE PLANET."









LOIS, THANK YOU FOR THIS LIFE. FOR OUR SON. FOR BEING MY TRUE HOME PLANET.

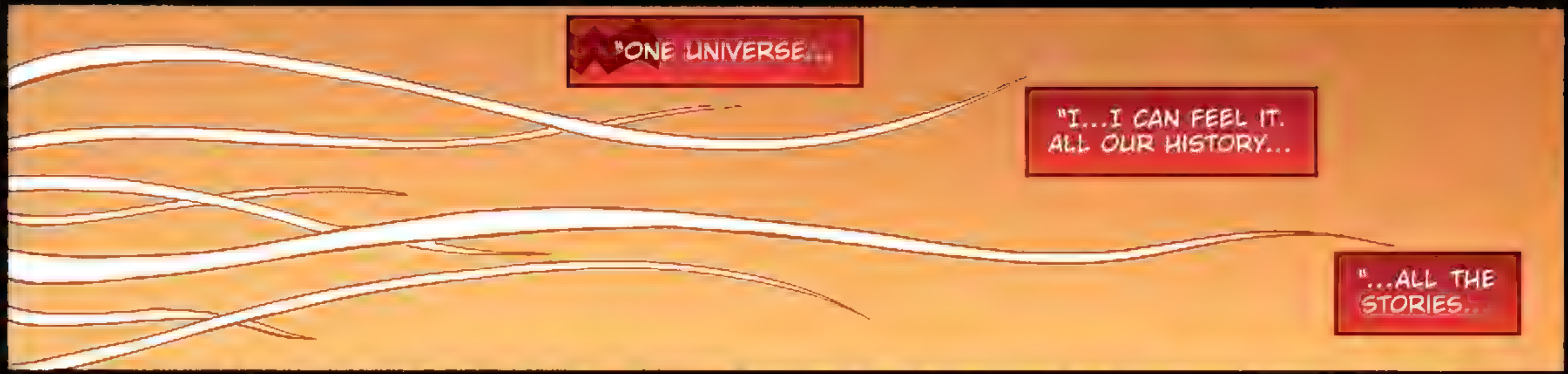
THANK YOU, CLARK. FOR BEING THE BEST **LEDE** A GIRL COULD ASK FOR.

PFFT. GET A ROOM.



HEH. JUST KIDDING, SUPES.

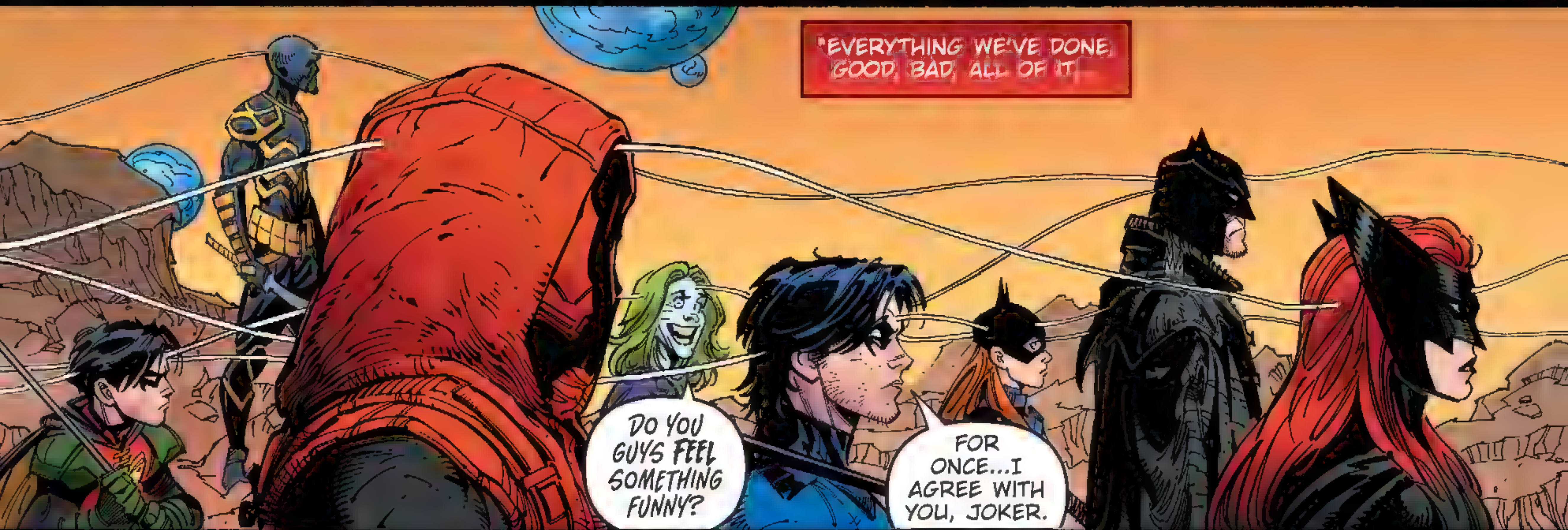
LISTEN, WE'VE PICKED THE WRONG TEAM AT TIMES, BUT WE'RE SORRY. AND WE'RE HERE NOW TO FIGHT WITH YOU. **ONE UNIVERSE.**



"ONE UNIVERSE..."

"I...I CAN FEEL IT. ALL OUR HISTORY..."

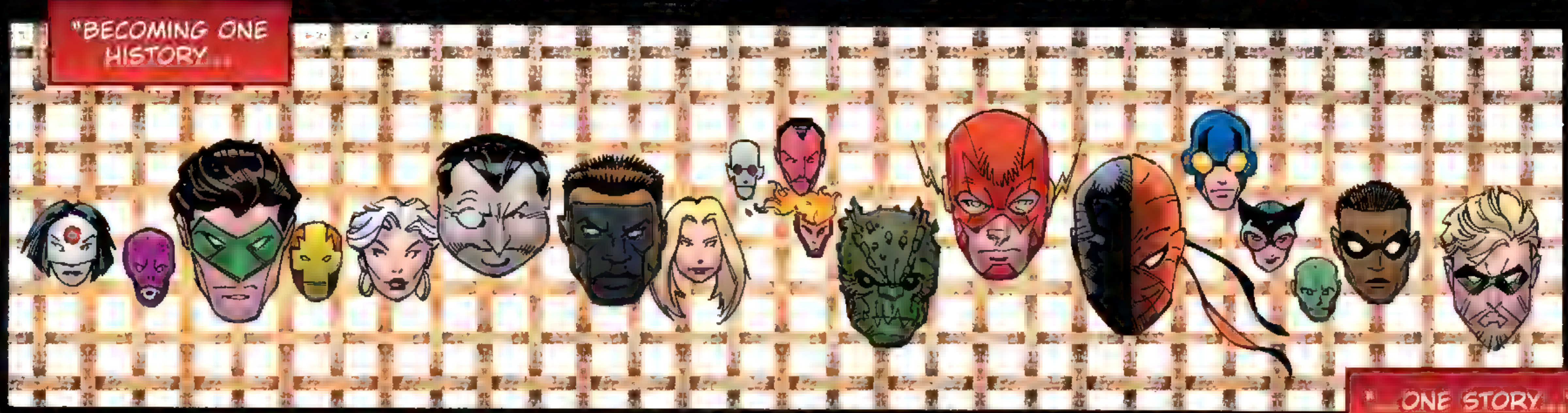
"...ALL THE STORIES..."



"EVERYTHING WE'VE DONE GOOD, BAD, ALL OF IT..."

DO YOU GUYS FEEL SOMETHING FUNNY?

FOR ONCE...I AGREE WITH YOU, JOKER.



"BECOMING ONE HISTORY..."

"ONE STORY..."





ONE TRUTH.

I...I CAN FEEL IT WORKING!

I SOMETIMES PRAY MYSELF. HELL, I ADMIT IT. IN THOSE MOMENTS WHEN IT'S LOOKING GRIM.



WHAT DO I PRAY FOR? ME, I PRAY FOR THE THING THAT I THINK EVERYONE IS PRAYING FOR DEEP DOWN.

I PRAY FOR THE FIGHT TO MEAN SOMETHING.

MY GOD...

EVEN IF WE LOSE. EVEN IF WE DON'T GET TO SEE IT.

I PRAY THAT ALL THE PAIN AND SUFFERING, ALL THE SACRIFICE, THAT IT'S SOMEHOW PART OF A CLIMB--A CROOKED ONE, SURE, BUT A CLIMB NONETHELESS.

AND ABOVE ALL, I PRAY THAT IN THE END WE ARE LEFT TRANSFORMED, FORGED BY THE FIRES OF BATTLE INTO SOMETHING BETTER THAN WE WERE BEFORE. AMEN.



I...I REMEMBER IT ALL.

DIANA?

YES, I'VE HEARD A LOT OF BATTLEFIELD PRAYERS.

THE SAD TRUTH IS, GOD NEVER ANSWERS.

BUT ON THAT DAY, ON THAT LAST SCORCHED BATTLEFIELD, TO ALL OF OUR SURPRISE...

ONE WHO LAUGHS! YOU WANT TO FIGHT SOMEONE...



...SHE DID.

...I'M  
RIGHT  
HERE.

Capullo  
20.4co  
Geron

**TO BE CONCLUDED**





# NIGHTWING



GOTHAM IS OUT OF CONTROL  
IF ITS SAFEST PLACE IS  
ARKHAM ASYLUM...

Written by ANDREW CONSTANT  
Art by NICOLA SCOTT



EVEN HEROES  
CAN'T SAVE  
GOTHAM NOW.  
GOOD THING  
SHE'S NO HERO.

Written by  
RAM V  
Art by  
OTTO SCHMIDT



DISCOVER THE DESTINY OF THE  
DC UNIVERSE!

#DCFutureState



JANUARY + FEBRUARY





## INTERVIEW WITH CARTOGRAPHER **JARED BLANDO**

The Metalverse is a dangerous place—you'll need help if you're going to make it out alive. Thankfully, fantasy and gaming artist and cartographer Jared Blando used his talents to illustrate the official map of the Metalverse, detailing the world remade in the image of the Batman Who Laughs.

**As an artist who has explored many fictional realms, what about the world of *Dark Nights: Death Metal* appealed to you?**

What appealed to me most was contributing to the DC Universe in my own way! I thought the idea of a fantasy map penned by Lex Luthor's hand (or at least from his perspective) was a really unique and fun idea. A postapocalyptic, fantastical map depicting the twisted world of the Batman Who Laughs sounded like a project I could really run with.

**What was your process in illustrating the Metalverse map? What are some of your favorite sections and details?**

The process went through a few stages and evolved the more I worked on it. At first, I was under the impression that it was strictly a "pen and ink on parchment"-looking piece due to the style samples the art director sent. As the sketch evolved, so too did the color palette, and I went with a pen and red ink style with watercolor washes. So still muted, but with blasts of color.

My favorite parts of the map are Aquaman's red throne and his fleet of sea creatures, or the Batman Who Laughs' ominous perch atop Gotham City.

**You've created maps for *The Last God* and *Death Metal*—what do you like about working in the comic book world?**

I really like working with comic book art directors. They know what they want, but they allow me to take the ball and run with it. They show a lot of trust and respect my design input. Having more freedom on a project allows me to inject more of my creative thought into it, and DC has been great about that.



**VISIT [DCCOMICS.COM/METAL](https://dccomics.com/metal) TO VIEW AN INTERACTIVE MAP WHERE YOU CAN LEARN HOW THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS RESHAPED THE WORLD!**

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*The Last Kryptonian-DCP*

